

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PINS, TH, CB
SUBJECT: CAMBODIAN BORDER INCIDENTS

1. BANGKOK PRESS HAS BEEN GIVING PROMINENT COVERAGE TO CONTINUING INCIDENTS ALONG THE CAMBODIAN BORDER, ALTHOUGH NONE OF THE RECENT ONES HAVE BEEN OF THE SPECTACULAR VARIETY SEEN EARLIER IN THE YEAR WHEN HUNDREDS OF THAI VILLAGERS WERE ROUNDED UP AND FORCED TO ACCOMPANY THAI COMMUNISTS, ASSISTED BY KHMER FORCES, INTO CAMBODIA.

2. CHIEF OF STAFF SUPREME COMMAND, GENERAL CHAROEN, REMARKED TO CHARGE RECENTLY THAT THE ATTACK AGAINST A MILITARY UNIT IN KANTHALAK DISTRICT OF SI SA KET ON JULY 22 WAS MOST SERIOUS BORDER INCIDENT YET. IN FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATION WITH SENIOR SUPREME COMMAND INTELLIGENCE OFFICER JULY 27, LATTER INDICATED THAT THE ATTACKING UNIT OF ABOUT 80 MIXED KHMER ROUGE AND THAI
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COMMUNISTS WAS INDEED ONE OF THE LARGEST ON RECORD BUT THAT CASUALTIES HAD BEEN LIGHT, WITH THE RTG LOSING TWO KIA AND THE ATTACKING FORCE FOUR. HE SAID THE FOUR BODIES RECOVERED WERE ALL KHMER.

3. OTHER ATTACKS IN TA PHRAYA AND ARANYAPRATHET DISTRICTS OF PRACHINBURI PROVINCE HAVE ALSO BEEN REPORTED.

SUPREME COMMAND OFFICER SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE FREQUENCY OF INCIDENTS DURING THE LAST TWO MONTHS HAS DROPPED FROM ABOUT 100 PER MONTH TO BETWEEN 50 AND 60. HE DID NOT ATTACH ANY PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE TO THE FACT THAT THE LARGE ATTACK ON JULY 22 FOLLOWED CLOSELY AFTER THE VISIT OF CAMBODIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TO THAILAND. HE FELT THAT THERE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN TIME IN THE INTERIM FOR IENG SARY TO IMPLEMENT ANY GREATER CONSTRAINTS ON KHMER BORDER FORCES. HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE LOWER LEVEL OF VIOLENCE ALONG THE BORDER THAT HAS PREVAILED FOR THE LAST COUPLE MONTHS WOULD BE EVEN FURTHER REDUCED AS A RESULT OF SARY'S VISIT.

O'DONOHUE

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